

TWO ADDITIONS TO THE ORCHID FLORA OF VENEZUELA

BY
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DURING the course of my investigations on the orchid flora of the Guiana Highlands with special emphasis on Venezuela, the following two species which seem to be amply distinct were discovered.

Vargasiella venezuelana *C. Schweinfurth sp. nov.*

Herba terrestris, elata, robusta, in parte inferiore decumbens. Caulis vaginis numerosis, adpressis, imbricantibus, foliiferis omnino celatus. Folia elliptica vel elliptico-oblonga, valde acuminata, ad basim articulatam longe attenuata, submembranacea, plicata. Inflorescentia e folii medii axilla exoriens, elata; pedunculus vaginis nonnullis brevibus, tubulatis remote ornatus; racemus perlaceo pauciflorus. Flores mediocres, laete purpurei, subcrassi, cum sepalis longitudinaliter concavis. Sepalum dorsale expansum lanceolato-oblongum, obtusum vel acutum. Sepala lateralibus valde similia sed paullo majora, obliqua. Petala sepalis multo breviora et latiora, ovalia vel oblongo-elliptica, obtusa vel subacuta. Labellum simplex, unguiculatum; unguis brevis sed distinctus, a basi oblonga abrupte dilatatus, carina mediana crassa, apice divisa ornatus; lamina leviter recurva, triangulari-ovata, apice rotundata, basi prominenter cordata. Columna crassa, brevis.

EXPLANATION OF THE ILLUSTRATION

PLATE XLIV. VARGASIELLA VENEZUELANA *C. Schweinf.*

1, plant, one fourth natural size. 2, flower from side, natural position, one and one third times natural size. 3, lip and column from side, natural position, twice natural size. 4, petal, twice natural size. 5, lip, natural position, twice natural size.

Drawn by ELMER W. SMITH

VARGASIELLA
venezuelana
C. Schweinfurth



Plant terrestrial, tall and robust, with a decumbent, sparsely rooting stem, up to about 187.5 cm. long including the erect inflorescence. Roots very remote, solitary, fibrous, rather stout, finely pubescent. Stem entirely concealed by appressed, imbricating, evanescent, leaf-bearing, tubular sheaths of which the lower ones are scarious and disintegrating into fibres and the middle and upper ones are green and leaf-bearing. Leaves elliptic or elliptic-oblong, acuminate to a sharp point, long-narrowed below to an articulated base, submembranaceous, plicate, with five to seven prominent nerves, about 14–17 cm. long, up to 3.3 cm. wide. Inflorescence springing from the axil of one of the middle leaves, up to 52 cm. high; peduncle dull lavender, glabrous, about 43 cm. or less long, remotely provided with about six short, tubular, acute sheaths; raceme very loosely few- (about 9-) flowered, the rachis about 9 cm. or less long. Floral bracts small, narrowly lanceolate, concave, equaling about half of the pedicellate ovary which is up to 2.3 cm. long. Flowers rich purple, subfleshy, with the sepals projecting backward and the petals erect. Sepals longitudinally concave. Dorsal sepal when expanded lanceolate-oblong, obtuse or acute, about 1.5 cm. long and 4.4 mm. wide. Lateral sepals similar, obliquely lanceolate-oblong, obtuse or acute, about 1.6 cm. long and 6 mm. wide. Petals distinctly shorter and broader than the sepals, oval to oblong-elliptic, obtuse to subacute, somewhat concave, up to 1.2 cm. long and 7 mm. wide, the margins often somewhat irregular. Lip simple, clawed, with involute, undulate margins; claw short but distinct, abruptly dilated from an oblong base, about 3 mm. long, provided with a central fleshy keel that divides abruptly into two diverging branches; lamina gently recurved, triangular-ovate, rounded at the apex when expanded, conspicuously cordate at the base, about 1.1 cm. long in the cen-

ter and up to 1 cm. wide; disc fleshy-thickened in the middle below. Column stout, about 5 mm. high.

This plant is the second species referable to the remarkable South American genus *Vargasiella*. It is clearly distinct from *V. peruviana* C. Schweinf. in its greater vegetative proportions, its bright purple (rather than whitish pink) flowers, its narrower, longitudinally concave sepals and its distinctly clawed lip.

VENEZUELA: State of Bolívar, Chimantá Massif, northwestern part of summit of Abácapa-tepuí, at 2125-2300 meters altitude, in *Bonnetia* forest, April 13, 1953, *Julian A. Steyermark* 74914 (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 69272).

***Oncidium vagans* C. Schweinf. sp. nov.**

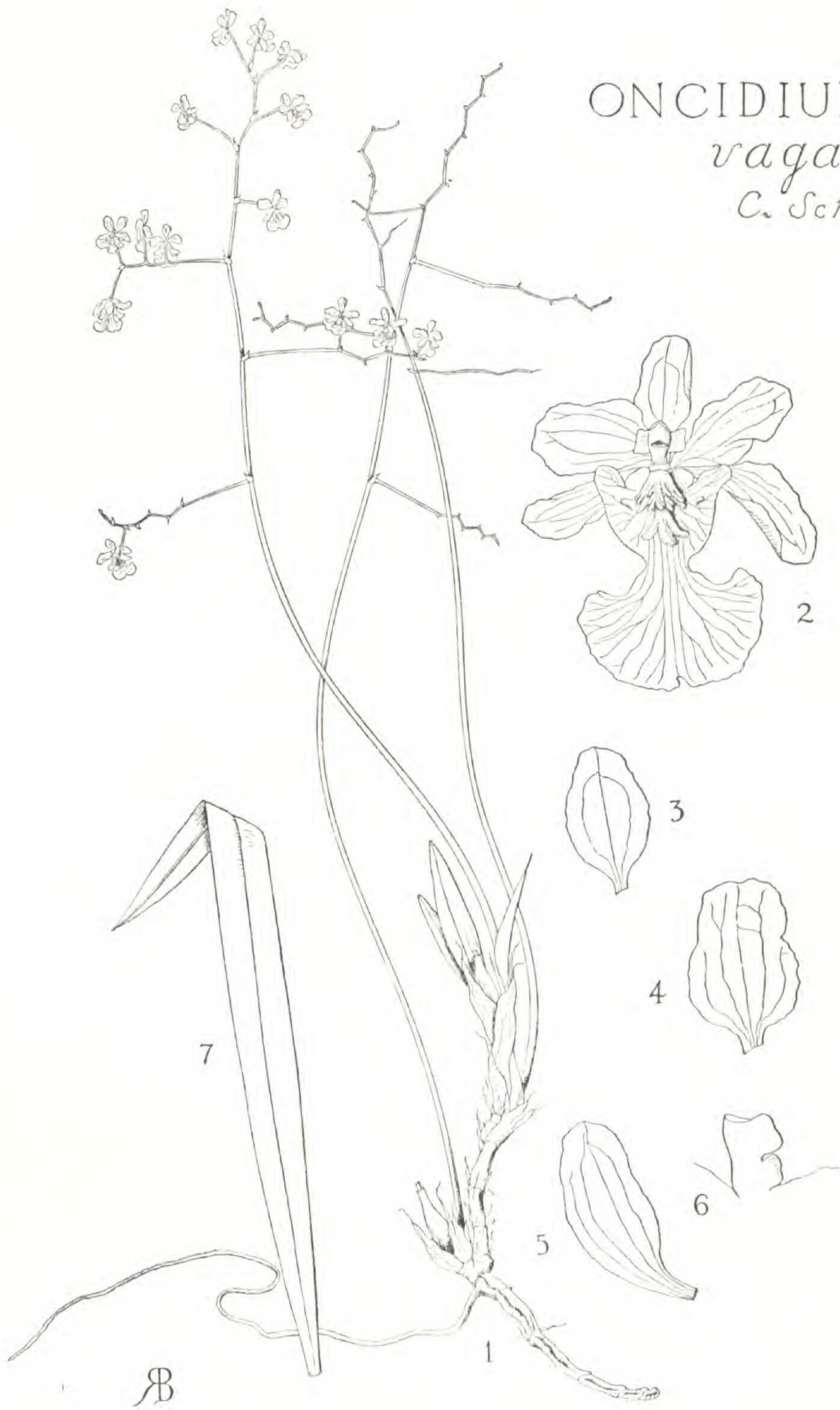
Herba magna, vagans, terrestris vel scandens, valde variabilis. Rhizoma cauliforme, plusminusve crassum, simplex vel in nodo ramosum, vaginis arctis, tubularibus, scariosis, evanidis omnino celatum, radices remotas, simplices, longas nunc emittens. Pseudobulbi remoti, cylindracei vel anguste pyriformes, prope apicem saepissime bifoliati, vaginis nonnullis, scariosis, evanidis inferne ornati. Folia lanceolata vel anguste oblongo-lanceolata vel anguste elliptico-lanceolata, acuta et apiculata, papyracea. Inflorescentia folia multo superans, e pseudobulbi basi exoriens, superne perlaxe paniculata, suberecta; pedunculus vaginis nonnullis, parvis, arctis ornatus; rhachis plusminusve fractiflexa, cum ramis horizontalibus vel decurvis laxae paucifloris. Flores parvi, cum segmentis late patentibus. Sepalum dorsale perbreviter unguiculatum, oblongo-ovatum vel oblongo-ovale, acutum vel apice rotundatum, trinervium. Sepala lateralia oblique obovato-oblonga vel oblongo-oblancheolata, apice rotundata vel acuta, quadrinervia, ad basim paululo unguiculatam angustata. Petala breviter unguiculata, abrupte ovato-oblonga vel oblongo-ovalia, apice lato plusminusve retusa et saepe subacuta, quinquenervia. Labellum segmentis

EXPLANATION OF THE ILLUSTRATION

PLATE XLV. *ONCIDIUM VAGANS* C. Schweinf. 1, plant, one fourth natural size. 2, flower, natural position (lip expanded), twice natural size. 3, dorsal sepal, two and one half times natural size. 4, petal, about twice natural size. 5, lateral sepal, twice natural size. 6, column, from side, three times natural size. 7, leaf (of another collection), approximately one half natural size.

Drawn by RUTH BARTON

ONCIDIUM
vagans
C. Schweinf.



ceteris multo majus, panduratum vel trilobatum; lobi laterales semiovato-triangulares cum angulis exterioribus late rotundatis; lobus anterior reniformi-flabelliformis, apice latissime rotundato emarginatus; discus callo biseriato, basi cuneato, crasse pluridentato ornatus, cum parte apicali conspicue tridentata. Columna parva, cum alis latis, subquadratis superne ornata et crassificatione divaricatim bilobata inferne praedita.

Plant large, sprawling, very variable, terrestrial or climbing. Rhizome stem-like, more or less stout, simple or virgately branched at one of the nodes, entirely concealed by close, tubular, scarious, evanescent sheaths, occasionally producing at remote intervals long, simple, fibrous roots. Pseudobulbs about 3–13 cm. apart, cylindric to narrowly pyriform, commonly 2- (rarely 3-) leaved near the summit, about 2–6.4 cm. long, provided below with several narrow, scarious, evanescent sheaths of which one is produced into an oblong-lanceolate blade. Leaves lanceolate to narrowly oblong-lanceolate or narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, acute and apiculate, papyraceous, 4–14.6 cm. long, up to 1.6 cm. wide. Inflorescences much surpassing the leaves, arising from the base of the pseudobulb, very loosely paniculate above, about 44.5–117.5 cm. long, suberect, often diffuse above; peduncle provided with several remote, small, inconspicuous sheaths, up to 73.5 cm. long; rachis more or less fractiflex with the horizontal or decurved branches loosely 3- to 7-flowered above. Flowers small, with widespreading segments, pale greenish or cream-colored to pale yellow with irregular brownish or purple bands. Dorsal sepal shortly and narrowly clawed, oblong-ovate or oblong-oval, acute to rounded at the apex, 3-nerved, about 6–6.8 mm. long and 3.2–4.5 mm. wide. Lateral sepals obliquely obovate-oblong or oblong-ob lanceolate, rounded to acute at the apex, 4-nerved, narrowed to an indistinctly clawed base,

about 8–11 mm. long and 3–4 mm. wide. Petals from a short claw rather abruptly ovate-oblong or oblong-oval, more or less retuse and often subacute at the broad apex, often slightly narrowed or indented on each side, about 6.3–9 mm. long and 4–6 mm. wide, indistinctly 5-nerved. Lip much larger than the other segments, pandurate or 3-lobed, white to cream-colored with purple spots and a yellow callus, about 11–13 mm. in greatest length, about 8–8.7 mm. wide across the basal portion; lateral (basal) lobes semiovate-triangular, broadly rounded at the outer angles, with a more or less distinct, semiorbicular lobule on each side of the base; anterior lobe reniform-flabellate, emarginate at the broadly rounded apex, about 10–11.5 mm. wide; disc with a prominent callus below consisting of two series of which the lower one is cuneate at the base and composed of several small, fleshy teeth and the anterior one of three larger, fleshy teeth; on either side of the callus there is sometimes (as in the type) a single fleshy tooth. Column small, about 3.5 mm. high, with a pair of broad, porrect, subquadrate wings above and a fleshy, divaricately bilobed thickening below.

Oncidium vagans appears to be allied to the Brazilian *O. Warmingii* Reichb.f., but differs in having entire, differently shaped lateral lobes of the lip, sessile mid-lobe and subquadrate column-wings.

VENEZUELA: Bolívar, Central Section, Chimantá Massif, 2120 meters alt., swampy depression in wet savanna along east branch of headwaters of Río Tirica, February 12, 1955, "lvs coriaceous, olive; pseudobulbs subterete. Peduncle reddish brown; lip white to cream with purple spots in center and at apex; callosity yellow with purplish spots; lateral lip appendages white; column purplish above, within whitish with greenish yellow at base; sepals and two lateral petals pale yellow to cream with broad irregular purple bands, locally frequent around hammocks," *Julian A. Steyermark & John J. Wurdack* 762 (TYPE in Herb. Ames 68534.—Amazonas, Cerro Duida, Río Cunucunuma (Culebra Creek drainage), 1600 meters alt., "terrestrial; outer perianth members pale greenish, pale brown mottled; lip white with mot-

tled appendages and yellow protuberance. In interzone between Bonnetia and cloud forests," November 19, 1950, *Bassett Maguire, R.S. Cowan & John J. Wurdack 29553*.—Bolívar (The Phelps Uaipán-Tepuí Expedition), at the summit, 1700 meters alt., flowers white, January 25, 1948, *Kathleen D. Phelps & Charles B. Hitchcock 358*.—Bolívar, 1800 meters alt., "semitrepadora o erguida en formación arbustiva baja. Parte central del plató de Auyantepuí, lugar soleado y seco," April 1956, *Vareschi & Foldats 4933*.—Same date as the last, *Foldats 2599*.—Cerro Auyantepuí, at the summit, Alto Caroní, 2100 meters alt., January 1949, *F. Cardona 2743, 2744*.